

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21-23 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11-15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Descombes (U.S. Pat. No. 6,459,326). Claims 6, 8, 10, 16, 18, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but may be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 8, 10, 18, and 20 are cancelled without prejudice. New claims 21-23 have been added.

Independent claims 1 and 11 are rewritten to include the limitations of claims 8 and 18, respectively. New claims 21 and 22 are original claims 1 and 11 including the limitations of claims 10 and 20, respectively. New claim 23 is original claim 1 including the limitations of claims 2-4 and 6. Thus, applicant believes claims 1-7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21-23 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21 and allowance of claims 1-7, 9, 11-17, 19, and 21-23. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicant's attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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